WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network server attached to a network and configured to receive a request from a client over the network, the server comprising:

a parser configured to identify a network portion of the request and a data portion of the request;

a verifier configured to receive the network portion of the request identified by the parser and, responsive thereto, to verify the integrity of the request;

an application program configured to receive the data portion of the request identified by the parser and, responsive thereto, to retrieve the requested data; and

wherein the server is configured to execute the parser and the application program simultaneously and further wherein the server is configured to abort the retrieval of the requested data responsive to detecting a fault in the network portion.

2. The server of claim 1, wherein the request for data comprises a TCP/IP formatted request.

3. The server of claim 1, wherein the network portion includes the TCP and IP headers of the request.

4. The server of claim 3, wherein the data portion comprises the application layer header of the request and the data.

5. The server of claim 4, wherein the application layer header comprises an HTTP header.

6. The server of claim 1, wherein the server includes multiple processors and wherein the verifier executes on a first of the processors while the application program executes on a second of the processors.

7. The server of claim 1, wherein the server includes a network interface card with an embedded processors, and wherein the verifier executes on the embedded processor while the application program executes on a server processor.

8. A method of processing information in a computer network, comprising:

responsive to receiving a request for data from a client connected to the network, parsing the request into a network portion and a data portion;

processing the network portion to verify the integrity of the request while processing the data portion to retrieve the requested data; and

responsive to verifying the network portion, sending the requested data to the client.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the request for data comprises a TCP/IP formatted request.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the network portion includes the TCP and IP headers of the request.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the data portion comprises the application layer header of the request and the data.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the application layer header comprises an HTTP header.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising, responsive to detecting a fault in the network portion, aborting the request.

14. A data processing network, comprising:

a client attached to the network and configured to issue a request for data over the network; and

a server attached to the network and configured to receive the request, the server including:

a parser configured to identify a network portion of the request and a data portion of the request;

a verifier configured to receive the network portion of the request identified by the parser and, responsive thereto, to verify the integrity of the request;

an application program configured to receive the data portion of the request identified by the parser and, responsive thereto, to retrieve the requested data; and

wherein the server is configured to execute the parser and the application program simultaneously and further wherein the server is configured to abort the retrieval of the requested data responsive to detecting a fault in the network portion.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the request for data comprises a TCP/IP formatted request.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the network portion includes the TCP and IP headers of the request.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the data portion comprises the application layer header of the request and the data.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the application layer header comprises an HTTP header.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the server includes multiple processors and wherein the verifier executes on a first of the processors while the application program executes on a second of the processors.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein the server includes a network interface card with an embedded processors, and wherein the verifier executes on the embedded processor while the application program executes on a server processor.